

My name is Donna Rogers. I live in Higganum; and I am a fourteen year breast cancer survivor. I am testifying in favor of HB5364 to restore funding to the Tobacco Health and Trust Fund to be used for tobacco control. The bill, as it is written, asks for \$4 million to be restored to this fund; I support restoring \$12 million to this fund.

As the mother of two grown sons who started smoking when they were in middle school, it disturbs me to think that they could be among the 27% of people who die of cancer in our state each year as a result of their tobacco use. These cancers are totally preventable; but we have to educate our kids. We also have to provide affordable programs for those who wish to quit.

Our state incurs over \$2 billion a year in tobacco-related healthcare costs. Between tobacco revenue and tobacco settlement funds, our state receives over \$473 million each year. To me, it seems like a no-brainer to put some of these funds into tobacco control programs. Not only would we be reducing healthcare costs; but, more importantly, we would save lives.

Please support HB 5364—restore funding to the Tobacco Health and Trust Fund in the amount of \$12 million.